REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed December 13, 2005. Claims 1 – 6, 8 – 11, 13, 15 and 17 - 20 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Okimoto*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In this regard, *Okimoto* relates to a system in which information is designated for printing at a particular time; however, that information is transmitted to the printer after the time for printing has been designated. The printer then determines whether the time for printing has arrived, at which time the printing is accomplished. This is clearly evident by the disclosure of *Okimoto*. By way of example, *Okimoto* discloses:

> Next, in S220, a print mail transmission settings screen is displayed on the display 135 provided in the computer system 8. Although not shown in the drawings, the print mail transmission settings screen requests the user of the computer system 8 to set information necessary for transmitting mail. The data necessary for the mail transmission includes the SMTP type employed for this transmission, address of the mail server 24, destination to which the print data is desired to be transmitted, a subject of the mail, and indication whether or not the user wishes to receive a return mail from a destination computer. In this example, it is assumed that the print data is desired to be transmitted to the personal computer 10 in the computer system 22. *The print mail transmission settings screen further requests the user to input settings for date and time when the print data is desired to be printed at the destination.* The print mail transmission settings screen can allow the user to input the number of copies desired to be outputted at the transfer destination.
>
> *In S230, a mail header 50b is created according to the information set by the user in S220.* A message ID identifying the subject mail is also created and included in the mail header 50b. Then, in S240,

the file attributes included in the file data, which is received in S210 from the printer driver 30, are added to the mail header 50b. In S250, all other necessary data, which is set in S220 as needed, is added to the mail header 50b.

Then, in S260, print data is read from the RAM 133 at the storage area indicated by the file data received from the printer driver 30 in S210. The print data is included in the mail body 50c as an attached file. Finally, all other necessary data, such as the envelope data 50a, is added to complete a set of print mail data. As a result, the set of print mail data 50 is created as shown in FIG. 17.

Accordingly, the body 50c of the print mail is constructed from the attached file including print data desired to be printed at the transfer destination. The header 50b of the print mail includes: the message ID identifying the subject print mail; an address of the mail server 24 connected to the computer 4; an address of the transfer destination; the subject of the print mail; and the like. The header 50b further includes indication whether or not the sender wishes to receive a return mail from a destination computer. *The header 50b of the print mail further includes print information* (processing format data) indicative of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination. The print information includes the file attributes such as: a code indicative of the page description language, at which the print data has been prepared; the number of pages, onto which the print data has been edited; and the number of copies of the print data desired to be outputted at the transfer destination. *The print information also includes data of "date and time" when the print mail is desired to be printed if this "date and time" data is set by the sender in S220.*

In S270, the thus completed set of print mail data 50 is transmitted to the mail server 24 with the destination set in S220. A log of this transmission is stored in S280 in the transmission log storage area prepared in the hard disk drive 134 or the like. Then, the mail transmission utility process ends.

(*Okimoto* at column 14, line 25 to column 15, line 18). (Emphasis added).

Based on the foregoing, *Okimoto* does not involve transmitting print data to a printer at a time corresponding to the time that the data is to be printed. To the contrary, *Okimoto* transmits the print data to the printer after correlating the user's inputs. The time of printing is then determined by the printer based on the information received. This is in direct contrast to the limitations recited in Applicant's claims.

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In this regard, claim 1 recites:

> 1. A method for print scheduling, comprising:
>   providing, at a user workstation, information to be printed as a print job;
>   receiving a user input, at the user workstation, identifying a time for printing the print job; and
>   ***transmitting the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. That is, *Okimoto* can not be said to involve "transmitting. . .at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user" because *Okimoto* transmits the print information to the printer after the user's inputs are processed and irrespective of the time indicated by the user. Thus, there is no correspondence in *Okimoto* between the time identified by the user and the transmitting as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2, 3 and 6 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 8, that claim recites:

> 8. A print scheduling system comprising:
>   an input interface operative on a user workstation for receiving user input identifying a time for printing a print job; and
>   ***a processor of the workstation that is programmed to initiate transmission of the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input.***

(Emphasis added).

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Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 8. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 8. That is, *Okimoto* can not be said to involve "a processor of the workstation that is programmed to initiate transmission of the print job . . . at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input" because *Okimoto* <u>transmits the print information to the printer after the user's inputs are processed and irrespective of the time indicated by the user</u>. Thus, there is no correspondence in *Okimoto* between the time identified by the user and the transmission of the print job as recited in claim 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 10 and 11 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 8, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 13, that claim recites:

> 13.   A print scheduling system comprising:
>   means for receiving, at a user workstation, a user input identifying a time for printing a print job; and
>   ***means for initiating transmission of the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 13. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 13. That is, *Okimoto* can not be said to involve "means for initiating transmission of the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input" because *Okimoto* <u>transmits the print information to the printer after the user's</u>

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inputs are processed and irrespective of the time indicated by the user. Thus, there is no correspondence in *Okimoto* between the time identified by the user and the transmission of the print job as recited in claim 13. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 15 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 13, Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim also is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 17, that claim recites:

> 17.   A computer readable medium having stored thereon logic comprising:
>   determination logic for determining if a current time corresponds to a user-determined time for printing a print job; and
>   *initiation logic for initiating the transmission of the print job from a user workstation to a printer in response to the determination logic determining that the current time corresponds to the user-determined time.*

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 17. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Okimoto* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 17. That is, *Okimoto* can not be said to involve "initiation logic for initiating the transmission of the print job from a user workstation to a printer in response to the determination logic determining that the current time corresponds to the user-determined time" because *Okimoto* transmits the print information to the printer after the user's inputs are processed and irrespective of the time indicated by the user. Thus, there is no correspondence in *Okimoto* between the time identified by the user and the transmission of the print job as recited in claim 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 19 and 20 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 17, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 4, 5, 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okimoto* in view of *Zhang*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In this regard, Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering the claims unpatentable. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Zhang* does not rectify the deficiencies of *Okimoto* set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 8 and 17. That is, since claims 4 and 5 are dependent claims that incorporate the features of claim 1, claim 9 incorporates the features of claim 8, and claim 18 incorporates the features of claim 17, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.
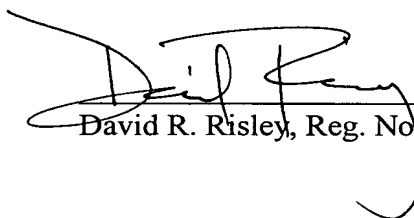
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.
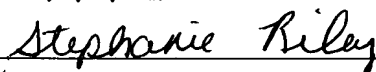
Respectfully submitted,

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